

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated December 15, 2006, claims 26-28, 30-43, 45-46, 48-50, 52-55, 57-61 and 63-74 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sim, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0083118 in view of Fredrickson et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0115251.

These rejections are respectfully traversed and are believed to be based on an ineffective reference.

As discussed during the telephone interview with the Examiner on December 28, 2006, Applicants have previously submitted a Declaration Under Rule 131, on November 9, 2005, establishing a conception date at least as early as December 2000, and subsequent diligence in reduction to practice. Thus, the effective date for the present application is at least as early as December 2000. This declaration was acknowledged as effective in overcoming the then references of record, see Office Action dated March 23, 2006, page 2, item 4.

Frederickson has a filing date of February 13, 2002, and claims priority to a provisional application filed on February 23, 2001. Thus, Frederickson's earliest possible date is later than December 2000, the effective date for the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that Fredrickson is not a proper reference for § 103 rejections.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of this application, is respectfully requested.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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